SITREP.12.02

A SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS (ETOPS) FOR DECEMBER WITH A FORECAST TILL MID-FEBRUARY, 2003

SUMMARY

1. **Summary:** This report provides an update about recent activities on emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in Africa, the Middle-East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America. The report includes activities that took place in December and a forecast till mid-February, 2003. Key ETOPs, including locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating red-billed *Quelea* birds are covered by the report. A brief overview of the current status of each of these pests is outlined in the remainder of this summary with detailed accounts provided thereafter.

DESERT LOCUST, *SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA (*FORSKAL)

2. **Desert locusts, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forskal)**. Western Mauritania experienced limited-scale breeding and very few adults were seen in the Draa valley, Morocco. The situation remained calm in other parts of the western outbreak regions. Insignificant breeding may occur in parts of Mauritania and Morocco. Northern Mali may harbor a few adults. Significant locust activities are not expected during the forecast period.

3. Isolated adults were reported on the Red Sea coastal plains near Aden, Yemen. Locusts were not reported from elsewhere in the region. Small-scale breeding may occur in southwestern Yemen and Saudi Arabia. A similar situation may occur in Sudan and Eritrea should more rain fall in these regions. Elsewhere in the region, the situation is likely to remain calm during the forecast period.

4. No locusts were reported from Baluchistan, Pakistan, Rajasthan, India, Iran or Afghanistan. Significant locust developments are not likely during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPPERS.

5. **Red locusts, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville)**. The red locust situation remained relatively calm in December. Only limited activities occurred in a few outbreak areas in Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia during the reporting period. A late received report indicated that a few red locust swarms were controlled in the northwestern part of the country between end of November and early late December. No further detail was available at the time this report was compiled.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.).** No reports were received on the Malagasy migratory locusts in December. No locust develops are expected during the forecast period unless rain fall commences soon.

7. No reports were received on tree locusts, ***Anacridium melanorhodon*** (Walker), the African migratory locust, ***Locusta migratoria migratorioides*** (L.), brown locust, ***Locustana pardalina*** (Walker), Moroccan locust, ***Dociostaurus maroccanus (***Thunberg), Italian locust, ***Calliptamus italicus*** (L), the Senegalese grasshopper, ***Oedaleus senegalensis*** (Krauss) and the variegated

grasshopper, ***Zonocerus variegatus*** (L). No locust activities were reported from Central Asia and Latin America in December. No major locust activities are expected during the forecast period.

8. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm outbreaks were reported in several villages in Masai District, Tanzania. Widespread armyworm outbreaks were also reported in Ndola, Lanshya and Kitwe Districts in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia during the 3rd week of December 2002. Further outbreaks are likely to occur in here and in Central, Lusaka, Eastern, Southern, and North Western Provinces, Zambia. Armyworm outbreaks could also occur in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique during the forecast period. Moth trap operators are advised to submit the catch data to their respective national forecasting officers as early as possible.

9. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).** Quelea birds were controlled on 9,000 ha in Nyala, Gedarif and El Renk, Sudan. A late received report indicated that a large breeding colony of Quelea birds was seen in November in Chokwe, Gaza Province, Mozambique. Chemicals and explosions were used to control 16 Quelea roots over 36 ha in South Africa. End of Summary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

10. Northwestern and southern Morocco received good rains in December and as a result, vegetation has become or is becoming green. Rains also fell in western Algeria, southern Mauritania and western Mali. Conditions were favorable for locusts to survive in these regions as well as the adjacent areas in Niger. Other parts of Sahelian west Africa and northern Africa remained fairly dry.

11. Moderate to light rain fell on the Red Sea coasts of Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. Light rain fell in eastern Ethiopia, near Dire Dawa, northern Somalia, near Boroma, and in Djibouti. Conditions may be favorable for small-scale breeding on the Red Sea coasts in areas that where rainfall occurred in December. However, significant developments are not expected during the forecast period.

12. Scattered showers were reported on the coasts and the interior of Baluchistan, Pakistan, and in Rajasthan, India during the second week of December. However, low temperatures kept conditions unfavorable. No meteorological information was received from the other countries in the region. It is likely that conditions will continue to remain unfavorable during the forecast period.

13. The Lake and Northern zones, the Southern Highlands, and Coastal belt of Tanzania received medium to heavy rains during the month. Dry conditions persisted in the other red locust outbreak areas.

DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

14. **Western and northwestern Africa.**

Mauritania experienced limited scale breeding in the western and northwestern regions in December. Very few adults were seen in the Draa valley, Morocco. A late received report indicated that 435 ha of hoppers and immature adults were treated in northwestern Niger. A few immature adults were seen in wadis near Tamanrasset, Algeria. Locusts were not reported from Chad, Senegal, Burkina Faso,

Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry in December.

15. Forecast: Insignificant breeding may occur in parts of Mauritania between Moudjeria and Akjoujt and Morocco. A few adults may mature in Morocco. Northern Mali may harbor a few adults which will persist in the Timetrine, Tilemsi Valley and the Adrar des Iforas and also in Talak, Niger. Significant locust activities are not expected during the forecast period.

16. **Eastern Africa, northeastern Africa, and the Near East Regions**. A few isolated mature adults were sighted by the end of December on the coastal plains of Yemen near Aden. No further reports were received on locusts in Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Near East in December.

17. Forecast: Small-scale breeding could occur in areas of recent rainfall along the Red Sea coasts of Sudan, Eritrea and Saudi Arabia. A few locusts may persist on the coastal areas of Yemen. Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Oman, Kuwait, UAR, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria, and Turkey will likely remain calm during the forecast period.

18. **Eastern region.** Despite the light rains that fell in Baluchistan, Pakistan and along the Indo-Pakistan border, conditions remained unfavorable and no locusts were reported in these countries or from Iran or Afghanistan.

19. Forecast: Significant locust developments are not expected in the Eastern region during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

20. **Moroccan/Mediterranean locust, *D. maroccanus (*Thunberg*)*** and the **Italian locust, *C. italicus* (L):** No reports were received on the Moroccan/ Mediterranean or the Italian locust in Central Asian at the time this report was compiled.

21. Forecast: No locust activities are expected during the forecast period. Eggs that were laid by the Moroccan locust in parts of Afghanistan and other countries in the region will still remain inactive until next the Spring.

22. **Latin America and the Carribean (LAC)**. No reports were received on locusts or grasshoppers in LAC countries in December.

23. Forecast. No significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

24. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville).** The red locust situation in the IRLCO-CSA region remained relatively calm in December. A few residual locusts that persisted in the outbreak areas might have resulted in small-scale breeding in Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique, however, meaningful control operations were not required during the month. A late received report indicated that a few red locust swarms were controlled in the northwestern part of the country between end of November and early late December. No further detail was available at the time this report was compiled.

25. **Forecast:** Locust populations may slightly increase in areas where small-scale breeding took place during the month. Vigilant surveillance and monitoring are required.

Note: The end of the current drought affecting Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, will likely trigger serious outbreaks of ETOPs and affect the traditional red locust, quelea as well as armyworm outbreak regions in these countries. Post-drought outbreaks of brown locusts may also become more evident in southern Botswana, southern Namibia and South Africa. It is imperative that regular survey and monitoring activities are carried out to avert any massive invasions that could occur once the drought spell is broken. This phenomenon is applicable to all ETOPs.

26. **Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L.).** No reports were received on the Malagasy migratory locusts in December. No locust develops are expected during the forecast period unless rain fall commences soon.

27. **Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker)**: No reports were received on brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker) in December. Significant locust activities are not expected during the forecast period.

ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

28. **Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).** Armyworm outbreaks were reported in several villages in Masai District, Tanzania. High moth trap catches were reported in several stations, including Masasi, Kiloso, Arisha and Dodoma. It is likely that outbreaks will continue in Masasi and other districts during the forecast period. Widespread armyworm outbreaks were also reported in Ndola, Lanshya and Kitwe Districts in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia during the 3rd week of December 2002. It is highly likely that a second wave of outbreaks will occur in this and other provinces including Central, Lusaka, Eastern, Southern, and North Western. Armyworm activities were not reported from the other DLCO-EA or IRLCO-CSA member-countries in December.

29. Forecast: There is a high probability of armyworm outbreaks occurring in Malawi, Mozambique, and Mozambique. It is also possible that armyworm outbreaks could occur in Zimbabwe should rain falls in the outbreak areas in these countries. Armyworm trap operators are strongly advised to submit the moth catch data to their respective national forecasting officers immediately.

QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

30. **Red-billed quelea, *Q. quelea* (L).** A late received report indicated that a large breeding colony of Quelea birds was seen in November in Chokwe, Gaza Province, Mozambique and in South Africa. In South Africa, chemical and explosions were used to control 16 quelea roots varying in size from 0.6-4 ha. Control action was carried out on 36 ha.

31. Forecast: Quelea breeding is likely to start in January/February in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The resulting fledglings and adult birds are likely to cause damage to crops.

RECOMMENDATIONS

32. Although most of the current locust and other migratory pest populations, as a whole, did not warrant significant control actions, some intensive control operations were carried out against quelea birds in South Africa. However, if they are left unaddressed, these pests could increase in numbers to a level that could pose serious threats to crops and pasture. It is important that regular monitoring, surveillance and reporting are maintained and that the results communicated promptly to the

appropriate bodies within the national, regional and international structures.

ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

33. The Africa Emergency Locust/ Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) project, which has been managed by the US Agency for International Development's (USAID), Bureau for Africa (AFR) for more than fourteen years, has now been transferred to the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), and is being managed by the Office for US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

AELGA works closely with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Agriculture Production and Protection Division, Plant Protection Services (UN/FAO/AGPP/PPPD /MPU), DLCO-EA, IRLOC/CSA, USAID bilateral and regional missions, host country ministries, and research establishments. Information on ETOPs is regularly collected from these and other entities, including the Information Core for Southern Africa Migratory Pests (ICOSAMP) to continuously monitor and analyze the potential risks for large-scale emergency outbreaks, and compile and disseminate as AELGA's SITREPS to all interested parties. Unsolicited reports or information about ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always welcome and much appreciated.

34. Missions with programs on food security, emergency pests and other related activities, host countries and regional organizations with similar portfolios, and other stakeholders **are kindly requested to forward their reports by the last day of the reporting month or within the first three days of the following month. Please, forward reports, information, questions, and/or requests to Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, ybelayneh@afr-sd.org FAX: 202-219-0506 (USA).** Please, cc your response to Drs. Joe Vorgetts, jvorgetts@afr-sd.org, and Harry Bottenberg, hbottenberg@afr-sd.org

For more information on the weather conditions, you may visit the following web sites:

http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/faoinfo/economic/giews/economic/engslish/esahel/sehtoc.htm

http://www.fews.net

For more information on ETOPs activities, you may visit:

http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm

http://www.english/newsroom/news/2002/5000-en.htm/

http://icosamp.ecoport.org/

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AELGA'S ACTIVITIES, VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE:WWW.AELGA.NET

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interregional Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control, in 2003. **Those interested can contact Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, via e-mail: ybelayneh@afr-sd.org or phone/fax: 202-219-0495/202-219-0506 (USA)**

u:\...\NewSitreps\sitrepDec02.pdf